

Attendance

Chairman:	Cllr Thomson	
Councillors:	Cllr Stallard, Cllr Bentley, Cllr Millard, Cllr Partridge, Cllr Stanton,	
Clerk:	Minutes taken by Cllr Bentley (in the absence of the Clerk)	
Other:	None	Public: 2
Apologies:	Cllr Hislop, Cllr Taylor	Not in Attendance: Cllr Faulkner

Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Cheswardine Parish Council held at the Parish Hall on Tuesday 4th December 2023

Meeting started at 7:45 p.m.

1. To receive apologies for absence

apologies were received from Cllr Hislop and Cllr Taylor.

2. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

3. Public Participation.

No questions were asked or statements made.

4. Planning (Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Sched 1, para 8)

Reference	23/04774/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-12522912
Application Validated	Mon 13 Nov 2023
Address	Cheswardine Hall Residential Home Chipnall Cheswardine Market Drayton Shropshire
Proposal	Installation of ground mount solar panels

[23/04774/FUL | Installation of ground mount solar panels | Cheswardine Hall Residential Home](#)

Cllr Thomson confirmed that a site visit had been conducted by himself and Cllr Stanton on Tuesday 28th November. New application plans had also been made active on the Shropshire Planning portal on 21st November 2023 which some Cllrs may not have realised ahead of the normal November meeting.

Cllr Stanton gave an overview of the outcomes of the site visit stating that it was clear that a solar array of this size would generate electricity even over shorter days and that the intention of this application was to cut the cost of electricity generation for the Cheswardine Hall, as well as cutting down on Co2.

Two areas of concern were raised following the site visit which were:

1. Access: the proposed access route is currently designated for pedestrian/agricultural use only and is not currently in an appropriate state for use by vehicles.

Shropshire highways have also made comment on the planning portal in relation to this.

2. Visual Impact: the solar array will be in an elevated position next to Yew Tree Farm and in their line of site. A 'shielding hedge' has been submitted on the planning application but this would need to be planted and established before the installation work could take place.

Cllr Bentley asked if this planned hedgerow was included because of residential concern?

Cllr Stanton confirmed it had and that an impact assessment suggested that a Hawthorn hedge be planted.

Cllr Thomson confirmed that both of these areas of concern have been raised as comments on the planning application and also reminded Cllrs of the actions a parish council can take.

Cllr Millard suggested that this level of development will need to go to a planning meeting at Shropshire Council and would encourage any concerned members of the public to attend.

Cllr Partridge agreed with Cllr Stanton's suggestion of a hedge being planted and established first and also raised concerns over the site access. Cllr Partridge also asked whether an ecological report had been conducted, Cllr Thomson believes this had been completed.

Cllr Stallard raised concern over the battery storage facility which featured on a number of public comments. Cllr Thomson said that both he and Cllr Stanton were informed that the location of the battery storage had been moved under new plans. Cllrs studied the plans and concluded that this was not the case and in fact, more hedges had been included around the battery in the original position. Cllr Stallard reiterated his concern over the battery storage position and asked Cllr Thomson to confirm who informed the site visit team that the position had been moved. Cllr Thomson confirmed that the applicant gave this information.

Cllr Bentley asked the Cllrs to agree an action/wording which can be voted on and that this action should be independent on comments the parish council have received or read.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council will object to this application based on the information submitted as part of the planning application as well as the conclusions from the site visit. Our two main concerns are; access to the site and the visual impact, noting that a screening hedge would need to be planted and established ahead of any installation.

Chairman..... Date.....